

Proposed Regulations for Adult Cabarets in City of Seattle

Dec. 5, 2005; updated Jan. 24, 2006

1 - Why are adult cabarets allowed?

The courts have ruled that this form of dancing is constitutionally protected expression, which must be allowed somewhere in the city, with reasonable regulations.

2 - How did you select the area where they will be allowed?

The zone was selected based on its size and its distance from residential areas, parks, playgrounds, daycare centers, pedestrian areas, community centers, schools, and religious institutions.

3 – Are there special separation requirements for these businesses?

Yes. The courts have allowed reasonable distance requirements. In this case, adult cabarets will be prohibited within 1000' of parks, playgrounds, daycare centers, community centers, schools or non-profit facilities offering public instruction, light rail transit stations, and religious institutions.

4 – Will there be limits on the size of these businesses?

The maximum size limit proposed will be 5,000 square feet. This is believed to be a reasonable size in this industry, based in part on our assessment of existing establishments. This is also the size limit for restaurants in industrial zones.

5 - Are you limiting hours of operation?

The hours of operation are limited under the adult entertainment regulations, which require these businesses to be closed from 2:30 a.m. to 10:00a.m.

6 – Are there sign regulations for these businesses?

In addition to other sign regulations, pole and roof signs for adult cabarets that are visible from State Route 99, the Spokane Street Viaduct, or Interstate 5 are not permitted.

7 - How many of these businesses do you anticipate?

That is difficult to predict, but we believe the area is large enough to accommodate potential demand for new clubs.

8 – Are special approvals required for these businesses?

Yes. They are required to obtain an adult entertainment license from the City.

9 - Would a successful challenge to the 4-ft rule cause the City to change its zoning rules?

The recent regulations governing conduct are designed to reduce the impact these establishments have on neighboring properties, especially in an area where new clubs would be allowed to open. Still, if the licensing restrictions are overturned, it would not effect the zoning proposal.

10- How large is this area?

The area is 310 acres, with 333 parcels. Based on King County assessor designations, industrial and warehouse businesses occupy approximately 60% of the area and retail/service 11%, with the remainder in a variety of uses, including transportation and utilities.

11 – What are the next steps?

The zoning proposal will be submitted to the City Council for consideration.